

## Message Text

SECRET

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15

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-11 ISO-00 AF-10 EA-11 IO-14 MMS-03

NSC-10 SPC-03 SAM-01 SS-20 RSC-01 H-03 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 L-03 DRC-01 /135 W

----- 076414

R 050505Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6074

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

CINCPAC

CINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCLAND

USINT CAIRO

S E C R E T JIDDA 570

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, UK, IO, SA

SUBJECT: DIEGO GARCIA EXPANSION

REF STATE 22250

1. SUMMARY: UNLESS INSTRUCTED TO THE CONTRARY, WE DO NOT INTEND RAISE SUBJECT OF DIEGO GARCIA WITH SAG, THOUGH WE WILL BE PREPARED DISCUSS IT WITH SAUDI OFFICIALS SHOULD THEY RAISE THE MATTER. THE BRITISH EMBASSY HERE AGREES THAT ISSUE SHOULD NOT BE RAISED WITH SAG. END SUMMARY.

2. THE PRESENCE OF U.S. NAVAL FORCES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA IS NOT A QUESTION TO WHICH THE SAUDIS  
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GIVE A GREAT DEAL OF ATTENTION NOR ARE THEY LIKELY

TO DO SO UNLESS THEIR ATTENTION IS DIRECTED THAT WAY.  
WHEN FORCED TO CONSIDER THE MATTER, HOWEVER, THEIR  
REACTION TO A U.S. NAVAL PRESENCE AT CLOSE STEAMING  
DISTANCE FROM SAUDI SHORES IS NEGATIVE. WHILE  
NOT ACTUALLY BELIEVING PROPAGANDA CHARGES THAT U.S.  
FORCES IN THE AREA HAVE BEEN AUGMENTED FOR POSSIBLE  
ARMED INTERVENTION TO GUARANTEE OIL SUPPLIES, THE  
U.S. NAVAL PRESENCE NONETHELESS MAKES THE SAUDIS NERVOUS.  
SAUDIS DON'T NORMALLY THINK IN TERMS OF GRAND STRATEGY  
AND TEND SEE THINGS AS THEY RELATE DIRECTLY TO THEM  
OR NOT AT ALL.

3. ARGUMENT THAT U.S. ACTING TO COUNTER SOVIET COMMU-  
NIST ACTIONS CAN FREQUENTLY BE EFFECTIVE WITH THE SAG,  
BUT NOT LIKELY TO BE IN THIS CASE AS THE SOVIET NAVAL  
PRESENCE IN THE AREA IS NOT VISIBLE AND THEREFORE NOT  
PERCEIVED AS A THREAT.

4. WE THEREFORE THINK IT BEST NOT TO FOCUS SAUDI AT-  
TENTION ON DIEGO GARCIA EXPANSION. TO DO SO WOULD ALSO  
RUN THE RISK OF MAKING SAUDIS THINK THAT THE EXPANSION  
IS MORE SIGNIFICANT THAN IN FACT IT IS. SHOULD THE  
SAG RAISE THE QUESTION WE WILL DRAW UPON MATERIAL  
PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO CALM SAUDI CONCERNS IN  
AS LOW KEY A FASHION AS POSSIBLE. FROM JIDDA VANTAGE  
POINT, OF COURSE, IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE IF SUBJECT  
NOT RAISED WITH ANY ARAB COUNTRY. WE ARE IN  
CONSULTATION WITH THE BRITISH HERE WHO SHARE OUR  
VIEW.  
AKINS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Subject:** DIEGO GARCIA EXPANSION  
**TAGS:** MARR, UK, IO, SA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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